

Warning after Blues' £6,216 loss on year

A WARNING that Wycombe Wanderers must promote themselves to offset a £6,216 loss on last season was given by club chairman Reg Williams, at the club's annual general meeting at the Royal British Legion, High Wycombe, on Thursday evening.

Commenting on the deficit for season '75-76, Mr. Williams said: "There are not many clubs running in the black these days and we must get more money next season. With the help of the members, I think we can do it."

Inflation was the main cause for Wycombe's loss last season but they still have a small amount of cash at the bank from the 1974-75 F.A. Cup run. Main increases in the expenditure were materials, laundry for players' kit, building work and electricity and gas.

Two other items gave cause for concern — losses of over £1,000 on programmes and over £3,000 on the Anglo-Italian Semi-professional Tournament.

Wycombe won an award last season for the best programme among the four leagues sponsored by Rothmans. However, Mr. Williams said that the club might have to 'cut their cloth shorter' next season. He said decreasing gates could be blamed for the loss of sales.

On the Anglo-Italian Tournament, Mr. Williams said the £3,000 deficit could have been offset by better attendances at the two home games while the club were only able to sell 700 of the 5,000 special programmes that were produced for clubs to sell and therefore raise funds.

The chairman thought that the club would have to con-

sider carefully the prospect of undertaking such a venture again but added: "We felt we had to take this on for the prestige of the town and the country. The club did you proud in this tournament."

TRIBUTE

Mr. Williams opened the meeting with a tribute to two club stalwarts who had died during the past season — Mr. Jack Smethurst (chairman) and Mr. Jack Richardson (match fixture secretary). Members stood for a moment's silence.

The chairman also paid tribute to the retiring manager Brian Lee. "Brian's record speaks for itself. He has done a fantastic job for Wycombe Wanderers and gave a new dimension of thought to the club. He acted as a real professional, built the team on character and took it from there.

"I am pleased to announce that Brian has accepted an invitation to become honorary vice-chairman and we look forward to his support in years to come.

"Ted Powell must be admired for taking on such a big job as Brian's successor and he is assured of our full support from the committee. It will take him time to settle down as Ted is a new person with new ideas. We are delighted he has taken the job."

Mr. Williams said he was also delighted that John Reardon had decided to stay on as Powell's assistant manager. He thanked groundsman Jock Sheppard, and Frank Darby for his work with the Blues Club. The chairman made special mention of the services given by the St. John Ambulance.

Ron Fisher, who recently retired as chairman of the Supporters' Club, was praised by Mr. Williams for his efforts and he told members that there was a good relationship between the parent club and Supporters Club. Thanks were also given to Mr. George Fone for his help with the accounts, to the club's doctor, Dr. Fenlon, and to the Bucks Free Press.

There were suggestions from some members that the club should revert back to a previous system of inviting a greater number of vice-presidents, which they felt would increase funds. Mr. Williams explained that the committee had decided some time ago that vice-presidents should be invited as an honorary position, but this would be discussed in the near future.

An amendment to a club rule brought some controversy. The committee wished to alter rule 13 to state that a special meeting of the club could only be called by 20 full

members. The rule had previously read that 20 members could call a special meeting. Some members felt that this was a retrograde step and would dampen the enthusiasm of the younger members of the club. Mr. Williams said that some of the younger club members were not responsible enough to call a club meeting, which was an expensive exercise.

After further discussion the amendment was put to the vote and carried by a majority.

As is now common practice at Wycombe's A.G.M., the manager, Brian Lee, gave a speech — his last as manager of the club. Mr. Lee said he was one of the few managers to be able to retire before they were fired, and paid several tributes to those who had helped him during his stay as manager.

He felt he had had the luck with Wycombe, but added that throughout his time, he had always tried to be honest. "It's my own brand of honesty," he said.

Mr. Lee thanked his assistant, John Reardon and said that he was delighted that the new manager would be teaming up with him.

He gave special thanks to the players, especially Tony Horseman and John Maskell — "two of the best players I had during my time. These two have meant something extra special."

New manager Ted Powell also spoke a few words and said he hoped the success Brian Lee brought to the club would continue.

"I hope the players and supporters will support me as they did Brian. I have made one or two changes which I hope will be for the betterment of the club. As for players, I should have three new players by next Tuesday."

Officers elected: President — M. Seymour; chairman — R. Williams; secretary — J. Goldsworthy; treasurer — A. Ward; hon. vice-chairman — B. Lee. Committee: C. Avery, G. Cox, R. Hart, H. Werton, G. Roberts, R. Holt, D. Carrell, L. Wheeler, G. Plested were re-elected.